

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD  
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO BY POUCH

S E C R E T STATE 060167

E. O. 11652 - GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XF  
SUBJECT: NEAR EAST HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 24 - 30

KUWAIT POUCH ABU DHABI AND MUSCAT

1. LEBANON: LEBANON- ISRAELI BORDER INCIDENT - FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS REPORTEDLY FIRED INTO ISRAEL FROM THE VICINITY OF THE LEBANESE VILLAGE OF RAMIEH ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER ON MARCH 24, PROMPTING ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES TO RETURN THE FIRE AND PATROL A STRIP ALONG THE BORDER INSIDE LEBANESE TERRITORY. THIS LATEST OF A SERIES OF INCIDENTS RECENTLY ON THE LEBANESE- ISRAELI BORDER SUGGESTS A SLACKENING IN THE LEBANESE ARMY'S VIGILANCE IN THE SOUTH- CENTRAL SECTOR, BUT EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTED MARCH 30 THAT THE ARMY APPEARS TO BE AGAIN TIGHTENING ITS CONTROL. MEANWHILE, AT A MARCH 26 ILMAC MEETING ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES TOLD THE LEBANESE THAT IF THE MARCH 24 INCIDENT HAD RESULTED IN ISRAELI CASUALTIES, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN - SWIFT AND TERRIBLE RETRIBUTION-" THE ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY WARNED THE LEBANESE TO CLEAN OUT TERRORIST HEADQUARTERS IN THE COUNTRY, ADDING THAT ISRAEL HOLDS LEBANON RESPONSIBLE FOR LEBANON- BASED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OCCURRING AROUND THE WORLD.

2. JORDAN: ABU DAUD IDENTIFIES BSO AS FATAH - RADIO AMMAN BROADCAST THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONFESSION OF BLACK SEPTEMBER OPERATIVE ABU DAUD ON MARCH 24. IN THE CONFESSION ABU DAUD DECLARED THAT THE BLACK SEPTEMBER ORGANIZATION HAS NO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND THAT IT IS FATAH WHICH CARRIES OUT OPERATIONS UNDER THAT NAME. ABU DAUD GAVE CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ON THE COMMAND STRUCTURE OF FATAH AND LISTED A NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL BSO OPERATIONS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

3. JORDANIAN ARMY MANEUVERING ON IRAQI BORDER - THE  
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JORDANIAN ARMY HAS BEEN HOLDING MANEUVERS THIS WEEK ON

THE IRAQI BORDER, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY AMMAN. THE MOVE IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR KUWAIT AND APPLY PRESSURE ON THE IRAQIS.

4. IRAQ: SADDAM HUSSEIN VISITS USSR - SADDAM HUSSEIN, IRAQI STRONGMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL, VISITED MOSCOW FROM MARCH 21-24. USINT BAGHDAD REPORTS THAT THE VISIT APPARENTLY WAS HASTILY ARRANGED AT SOVIET INITIATIVE TO SEEK AN IRAQI EXPLANATION OF THE RECENT ACCORD WITH IPC. WHILE " STRATEGIC ALLIANCE" WITH THE SOVIET UNION WILL PROBABLY REMAIN THE CORNER-STONE OF IRAQ' S FOREIGN POLICY, USINT BAGHDAD SEES FOR THE FIRST TIME SIGNS OF COOLNESS IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

5. SAUDI ARABIA: PDRY AIR ATTACK O  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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**TAGS:** PFOR, XF  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
ALGIERS  
AMMAN  
ANKARA  
BEIRUT  
BRUSSELS  
CAIRO

DHAHRAN  
JIDDA  
KHARTOUM

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